

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides an effective method for the production of optically active N-aryl- $\beta$ -amino acid compounds, which at the same time is suitable for industrial production. In the method of the present invention optically active sulfonylated  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compounds, which are readily derived from  $\beta$ -keto carboxylic acid compounds, are reacted with aromatic amines to produce optically active N-aryl- $\beta$ -amino acid compounds.